

critically discussed and warrantable conclusions clearly stated. Though brevity of statement is the rule there is no dearth of detail; but in places the impression forces itself upon one that the author of a given chapter had not thoroughly digested the material at hand before attempting to write an account of it.

As a whole, the work is well done, and its authors deserve a high degree of commendation; and those of us who admit the truth of the conception that many, if not all diseases are, essentially disturbances of metabolism, will find this treatise to be a veritable storehouse of information.

J. C. CARDWELL.

**BIER'S HYPERÆMIC TREATMENT.** By WILLY MEYER, M.D., Professor of Surgery, New York Post-Graduate School and Hospital, and Professor Dr. VICTOR SCHMIEDEN, Assistant to Professor Bier, University of Berlin, Germany. Octavo of 209 pages. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. 1908.

We have for some years past been anticipating the appearance of some book descriptive of the method which Dr. Bier so extensively employs. This has at last been given us by the authors in the present volume. The various and interesting theories which have been promulgated as to the real working of this procedure are omitted, as are also any mention of illustrative cases. In Dr. Bier's personal writings these both find expression, and tend rather to lend interest as well as scientific introspection than to detract from it.

The book is well and instructively illustrated with the more or less familiar suction apparatuses, hot air boxes and elastic appliances. In the ingeniousness of the devices for cupping the various parts of the body, and in the larger vacuum chambers, we recognize the exceptional and fertile originality and mechanical aptitude of Dr. Klapp.

The working theory of these various appliances is easily summed up. Accepting the fact that hyperemia is the physiological process by which inflammation or infection is to be combated, we deduce that in so far as it may be possible to increase this process just so much greater will be the benefit derived by the invaded tissue. Thus while previously inflammations were

considered detrimental so that the physician's first duty was to fight them, now we go to the other extreme and attempt to artificially increase the redness, swelling and heat, three of the four cardinal symptoms of acute inflammation.

This book deals with the practical application of this theory and is divided into a General and a Special Part. The former taking into consideration the advantages of the hyperemic treatment over other methods, the methods of inducing hyperemia, and the general rules for the application of hyperemia, that is, elastic bandage, suction apparatus and hot air. In the Special Part the treatment of diseases and conditions of the entire field of medicine and surgery are taken up, including surgery, medicine, gynecology and obstetrics, genito-urinary surgery, otology, ophthalmology, rhinology, pharyngology and laryngology, neurology including psychiatry, and finally dermatology.

The text is clearly printed, terse and lucid; in the wide margins at the side is appended on each page, in heavy type, the subject which is described on that page, thus facilitating ease of reference. The English nomenclature for this process is certainly puzzling; nothing we have seems to express clearly and correctly just what we want; it is very probable and not inappropriate that the German terminology of "Stauung's Hyperæmie" should be taken over bodily.

The most fully treated affections and those from which we are able to draw the best conclusions because of the greatest experience with them, are probably the tubercular affections, principally of the joints, mastitis and the acute infections, especially gonorrhœal arthritis. There are many things to which objections may be taken, probably the mention of the most obvious will suffice. The advice of applying a neck band for invasion of the mastoid is to be condemned, the dangers accruing from such a procedure are so much greater than any problematical benefit; the easy inception of a lateral sinus thrombosis, brain abscess, septicemia, etc., which can not be appreciated because of a complete masking of the symptoms. In fact, this particular application for any reason, except in the young, is fraught with the risk of the most serious consequences, for who is there that can say what are the conditions of the cerebral arteries; even though superficial ones may appear perfectly normal? The facts should receive consideration, even by an enthusiast, that the clinics of

Europe, even in Bonn itself, have completely discarded and absolutely condemned this method.

Generally, judgment of the highest order and wide observation are required. Continual observation of this procedure, at least where major and dangerous conditions are present, should be insisted upon, and this can not be obtained nor given by the ordinary practitioner; it can only find its advocates among those of large hospital experience. Its expensiveness makes it impracticable for other than institutional application, except, of course, in minor conditions.

Thus one comes to appreciate that the drawbacks in some degree counterbalance the proffered advantages, and it will be some years yet before we can strike the mean between the extremes which are at present existing between Berlin and the rest of the medical world.

JAMES TAFT PILCHER.

OPHTHALMIC SURGERY. By DR. JOSEF MELLER, of Vienna, P. Blakiston's Sons and Company.

While nothing less than continued actual experience can give to one the skill necessary to successfully practice surgery, and particularly ophthalmic surgery, there is published once in a great while a book that seems almost to be a connecting link between the theory and practice, and this may be stated of the one under review; for we rarely see a work in which the illustrations are as true to real conditions, or the descriptions as lucid as is the case here.

The operation for excision of the lachrymal sac, which is being more frequently performed of late than formerly, is graphically portrayed; and as much may be said concerning the operations for removal of the lachrymal gland and for passing the nasal probe.

The various operations upon the eyelids for entropion, ectropion and canthoplasty, are made very clear, as are also those upon the eye muscles, including "advancement." The plastic operations done upon the lids are well described.

Much space and detail have been given to the operations for the extraction of senile cataract and iridectomy in glaucoma.

Concerning the chapter dealing with the cataract operation, while the reviewer is in accord with most of the valuable sugges-